



Miami-Dade County

Minutes

Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)

Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC)

111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128

18th Floor, Conference Room 18-4

	Date:	Wednesday, September 26, 2012	
	Time:	1:30– 4:00 p.m. est.	
	Call to Order Time:	1:40 p.m. est.	
	Meeting Adjourned:	4:02 p.m. est.	
I.	<u>Opening and Attendance:</u> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed		
	District 1 Commissioner Jordan	John Miller 1 st Vice Chair	Excused Absence
	District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David Access Committee Chair	Present at 1:52 p.m.
	District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda	Present
	District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Earl Oaks Employment Committee Chair	Present
	District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Jose (Ernie) Martinez CODI Chairman	Present
	District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Pedro Rodriguez Housing Committee Co-Chair	Excused Absence
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach/Education Chair	Excused Absence
	District 8 Commissioner Bell	Jesus Garcia CODI Secretary and Transportation Committee Chair	Present
	District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton 2 nd Vice Chair	Present
	District 10 Commissioner Souto	Dr. Sam Kohlenberg Membership Committee Chair	Excused Absence
	District 11 Commissioner Martinez	Denise Valkema	Present
	District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Marilyn Larrieu Housing Committee Co-Chair	Present
	District 13 Commission Bovo	Alan Rigerman	Excused Absence
	Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Dianne Steinberg ISD, Administrative & Business Services Division Recording Secretary	Present
		Heidi Johnson-Wright ISD, ADA Coordinator	Present
		Marcos Ortega Transit, ADA Coordinator	

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		Albert Hernandez Transit, Assistant Director of Engineering Planning and Development	Present
II.	Approval of Agenda	CODI Chairman Ernie Martinez made a motion to approve the 9/26/12 agenda and to include an item to be presented by Marcos Ortega regarding relocation of a bus stop. Motion to approve was made by Jesus Garcia and was seconded Marilyn Larrieu. Motion passed.	
III.	Approval of CODI Minutes	Chairman Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/22/12 CODI meeting. Motion to approve was made by Marilyn Larrieu and seconded by Jesus Garcia. Motion passed.	
IV.	Opening Comments	<p><i>3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred)</i> <i>No public comments at this time</i></p> <p>Jose Granda spoke regarding the Disability Expo at NOVA University to be held on 10/6/12. The Expo is open to the general public.</p> <p>1. Haulover Beach Project</p> <p>Tim Werner from the Paralyzed Veterans of America addressed the Board the Haulover Beach Park access. Mr. Werner stated that there are compliance problems with the beach parking and this ongoing issue has yet to be resolved. Mr. Werner filed an ADA complaint with the federal government in May 2012. The County is evaluating how best to improve access. This project would include the removal of steps in the underground tunnels. The Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) has plans and estimated cost, but a date has not been set as of yet. He added that this park has 1.5 million visitors annually Heidi Johnson-Wright, ISD, ADA Coordinator stated that PROS has already added spaces on the east side of A1A and conducted the tunnels engineering study.</p> <p>2. Follow-up Items from CODI Board Meetings</p> <p>Ronald Fulton requested information regarding the Miami-Dade County, Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) Consolidated Plan. He said he has not received this information. Chairman Martinez said that CODI Committee Chairs are to take the initiative in sending out these reports to committee members. Marilyn Larrieu confirmed that Pedro Rodriguez has been emailing these reports to CODI members and the CODI Housing Committee, including information on the Consolidated Plan. Chairman Martinez asked Ms. Johnson-Wright to see that information regarding public housing issues is being forwarded to Mr. Fulton.</p>	
		<p>3. Elections Department (Jackson David)</p> <p>Jackson David stated that the Elections Department did not attend the last Access Committee Meeting as they advised that they are preparing for the Presidential Election. He stated that communication of these issues with the Elections Department is important to ensure a clear understanding of the issues and added that he is researching the DOJ webpage.</p> <p>Heidi Johnson-Wright stated that John Mendez, Assistant Director, Elections Department said that once the election was concluded, his staff could meet with CODI. Chairman Martinez noted that the purpose of requesting a meeting with the Elections Department is relevant before the Elections occurs.</p>	
		<p>1. Transit, Relocation of 117th Street Busway Stop</p> <p>Marcos Ortega, ADA Coordinator, Miami-Dade Transit, and staff made a presentation on the relocation of the bus stop located on the Busway at 117th. It is proposed that the bus</p>	

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	Action Items	<p>stop be moved to SW 120th Street.</p> <p>Shawn Compell, MDT, Engineer provided photographs, documents, and a PowerPoint slide presentation of the existing station (across from Whole Foods Market) with specifics for the relocation. Mr. Compell explained that the existing station is located at the busway and 117th Street with the new proposed location south approximately 1500 ft., at the busway and SW 120th Street. The purpose for the relocation is that the existing station promotes an unsafe and unsignalized pedestrian crossing at US1 where there is a cut out at the median but no signal to lead pedestrians across US1. The new stations will coincide with a new signal at 120th street which is being completed by FDOT and will incorporate an Accessible Pedestrian Signal. He added that a key motivation for this project relates to the students that use this stop to cross US1 in order to reach Palmetto Senior High School located in the Village of Pinecrest.</p> <p>Mr. Compell advised that MDT is reviewing the design, completing the bid by the end of this year and commencing construction in early 2013. This project involves a coordination of efforts of MDT, FDOT, and Pinecrest. The MDT rational takes into consideration safety, operational considerations, and maintenance. However, there remains some issue with constituents due to the loss of the 117th Street bus stop. A meeting is scheduled for 10/11/12 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.</p> <p>Rick Agala, stated that MDT attained ABC data for the purpose of measuring ridership on the buses on this route. It averaged 61 riders on and 59 off at the 117 bus stop. This averages less than ½ a person per 3 buses with a bus every 4-6 minutes. He noted that the data collected demonstrates that the bus routes 112, 117, 124 all have very low ridership. Additionally, the 117 stop does not offer a cross walk. Therefore, MDT is in favor of eliminating the 117 and relocating it to the bus 120th street bus stop. Additionally, a meeting was held in July 2012 with Pinecrest and it was determined that if the municipality insisted on keeping the 117 station, it has the option of being responsible for maintaining it. He added that in the event that MDT needed to supplement another bus, it would be at a cost of \$200,000 a year.</p> <p>Jose Granda advised that there is a large deaf population in the area. There is no accommodation for deaf residents who use the busway, due to the fact that emergency vehicles do not change signals from "walk" to "don't walk" in order to warn the deaf population. Mr. Agala said that there are some pedestrian crossings that can notify deaf people with a vibrating signal that traffic is approaching. However, this component is not incorporated into this project. Mr. Granda also inquired if the project will include a voice-change for someone who is visually impaired. MDT staff stated that they did not know. Jesus Garcia made a motion to approve the move of the 117th Street bus stop to 120th Street. The Accessible Pedestrian Signal will be part of the project. Denise Valkema 2nd the motion. All but one approved motion. Ron Fulton opposed. Motions passed. MDT requested a letter of support from CODI.</p>
	Committee Summary Updates	<p>Transportation Committee: Security for Meetings</p> <p>Jesus Garcia advised that the type of behavior that occurred during the last Transportation Committee will never be permitted to occur again. Speakers will not be allowed to take up more than their allotted time for their comments.</p> <p>Mr. Garcia stated that the STS Riders Guide revisions are being addressed now. CODI members should read the draft that was forwarded. He stated that there are three major issues of concern, listed from least to greatest.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Cancellation Policies: A cancellation must be made one hour before the trip is to take place, which is perfectly reasonable. Clarification is needed if someone makes seven trips in one day and cancels

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		<p>all seven, one hour before trip time. This should be considered abusing the system, although the rider is following the rules. He inquired as to what the policy mandates. Mr. Garcia suggested that if STS sees such pattern, those individuals' trips should not get scheduled.</p> <p>William Velez, Chief of STS Operations, suggested that rather than limiting a rider from using the system, a more formal structure should be set up. If a person is abusing the system, put that person on notice with a first warning letter, outlining the penalties that will become more severe, up to suspension.</p> <p>2. Recertification Policies:</p> <p>Mr. Garcia said that the draft Rider's Guide states recertification will be conducted every three years. Is this going to be system-wide, the way Broward County does recertification at this time?</p> <p>Mr. Velez clarified that the recertification of cards for individuals with permanent disabilities does not make fiscal sense for the County. The reason there is an expiration date on the cards is because the card technology will eventually become obsolete. If MDT gets the RFID Program, MDT will have a distribution of over 30,000 card holders. During that time, there may be people that have temporary STS service or an expiration date, and MDT may review those cases. He said the language can be revised.</p> <p>3. Extension of the Window/Restriction of Trips at Certain Times</p> <p>The guide states that the reservation agent may advise the client must select the pick-up time one hour before or one hour after the requested pick up time. He noted that from his experience working in the transportation industry, clients will not get their requested times. If the contractor is given this ability, clients will only get negotiated times, scheduled at the contractors convenience. Mr. Velez stated that this does meet the ADA criteria. If a driver arrives one minute before or after the scheduled trip, it is considered a denied trip by ADA without the above-stated policy. Mr. Garcia said that the issue of on-time on reservations should be resolved before the new contract is put into place. Clients will be unable to reserve a 7:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. etc. pickup unless they have subscription service. This item will be on the 10/15/12 Transportation Committee meeting agenda.</p> <p>Mr. Velez stated that the STS Riders Guide must be ready to go to print soon and requested that CODI forward any language to be revised related to cancellation and reservation to Ms. Johnson-Wright or his office, as soon as possible. He noted that these are the ADA guidelines and they are required to provide these to the riders.</p> <p>The discussion continued regarding dual certification or service for visitors and Mr. Velez stated that the rider can contact MDT, show I.D. to make a reservation and MDT will provide service. There will be taken up at the Transportation Committee meeting.</p> <p>Jesus Garcia advised that the orange strap Issue has been resolved and riders are no longer obliged to wear it. Mr. Velez agreed that language should be drafted for the new guide clarifying that the strap is optional.</p> <p>Ron Fulton inquired about the amount of bags allowed per person on the STS vehicles, noting that only two bags are currently allowed. Can this be extended to four bags per person? Mr. Garcia said then there may not be space for wheelchairs if the current number of bags allowed is extended. This will also be put on the agenda for the 10/15/12 Transportation Committee meeting.</p> <p>Denise Valkema stated that the following items in the Riders Guide need to be addressed:</p>
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		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (Page 7) Driver is not responsible to call rider cell phones or intercoms. Many riders live in condominiums and the gate is closed and the driver has to call the rider. Also riders sometimes wait on their floor or residence instead of going down to the vehicle. How are these situations going to be handled?2. (Page 17) How long does an STS trip take? When there is no fixed route, previously there was a standard 8-12 miles per hour speed for the trip? Mr. Velez said that it is comparable to a bus or rail trip. This can be included in the Riders Guide.3. (Page 25) Suspension or cancellation can occurs if a rider lives on an unpaved road. Chief Velez said that MDT addresses this on a case-by-case basis. This language will be left in the Riders Guide, as is.4. (Page 18) The driver will collect fare and no change? Chief Velez said this will not change. Additionally, vouchers will still be available.5. Cancellations: Riders should be reminded that the return trip will be cancelled as well.6. Riders Guide in Braille. Mr. Velez advised that once the Riders Guide is finalized, riders can call the MDT office and request a hard copy Braille.7. Chair Martinez asked about the option of going online and riders ability to put money on their card. Chief Velez said this was proposed some time ago but the credit card company puts a fee on the company. Possibly the provider can be lobbied because they will incur a cost.
		<p>Raul Rios, Public Works and Waste Management, advised that his department is running into some very aggressive vendors such as parking meter companies, bus bench companies and magazine racks companies. PWWM is tracking them down, as nothing is to be done without a permit.</p> <p>Lucy Binhack, ADA Coordinator, Parks and Recreation and Open Spaces Department advised CODI that a survey is being sent out to people with disabilities regarding PROS services. This is being given to CODI to review. The survey will be submitted to Heidi Johnson-Wright, who will send to CODI.</p>
		<p>Sunshine Law and Parliamentary Rulings</p> <p>Chairman Martinez stated that dates are needed for CODI Sunshine Law training. Jackson David suggested the training can be scheduled before a committee or CODI meeting. Earl Oaks agreed.</p> <p>CODI Bylaws will be discussed at the Ethics Committee Meeting on 10/11/12.</p>
		<p>Adjournment: Motion was made by CODI Chairman Martinez.</p> <p>Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 24 , 2012</p>